

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-02567-BAH**

BUZZFEED, INC. et al v. FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION

Assigned to: Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

Demand: \$0

Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 11/07/2018

Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of

Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**BUZZFEED, INC.**

represented by **Matthew Topic**  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
311 N. Aberdeen Street  
Third Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 243-5900  
Fax: (312) 243-5902  
Email: [matt@loevy.com](mailto:matt@loevy.com)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Matthew Lynn Schafer**  
BUZZFEED INC.  
111 East 18th Street  
14th Floor  
New York, NY 10003  
(646) 798-0693  
Fax: (212) 431-7461  
Email: [matthew.schafer@buzzfeed.com](mailto:matthew.schafer@buzzfeed.com)  
**TERMINATED: 03/04/2019**

**Merrick Jason Wayne**  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
311 N. Aberdeen Street  
Third Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 243-5900  
Fax: (312) 243-5902  
Email: [merrick@loevy.com](mailto:merrick@loevy.com)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Plaintiff**

**JASON LEOPOLD**

represented by **Matthew Topic**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Matthew Lynn Schafer**  
(See above for address)  
**TERMINATED: 03/04/2019**

**Merrick Jason Wayne**  
(See above for address)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

represented by

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION**

**Cristen Cori Handley**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-305-2677  
Email: [Cristen.Handley@usdoj.gov](mailto:Cristen.Handley@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
11/07/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5781247) filed by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>6</u> Summons)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 11/07/2018)
11/07/2018		Case Assigned to Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell. (zmd) (Entered: 11/08/2018)
11/08/2018	<u>2</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Summons 2nd, # <u>2</u> Summons 3rd, # <u>3</u> Notice and Consent) (zmd) (Entered: 11/08/2018)
11/21/2018	<u>3</u>	STANDING ORDER. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on November 21, 2018. (lcbah3) (Entered: 11/21/2018)
12/03/2018	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 11/19/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 12/19/2018. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/03/2018)
12/03/2018	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 11/19/2018. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/03/2018)
12/07/2018	<u>6</u>	AMENDED COMPLAINT <i>AS OF RIGHT</i> against FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION filed by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A – Request #1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B – Acknowledgment #1, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C – Expedited Processing #1, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D – Unusual Circumstances #1, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E – Request #2, # <u>6</u> Exhibit F – Acknowledgment #2, # <u>7</u> Exhibit G – Expedited Processing #2, # <u>8</u> Exhibit H – Unusual Circumstances #2, # <u>9</u> Exhibit I – Request #3, # <u>10</u> Exhibit J – Acknowledgment #3, # <u>11</u> Exhibit K – Expedited Processing #3, # <u>12</u> Exhibit L – Unusual Circumstances #3, # <u>13</u> Exhibit M – Request #4, # <u>14</u> Exhibit N – Acknowledgment #4, # <u>15</u> Exhibit ) – Expedited Processing #4, # <u>16</u> Exhibit P – Unusual Circumstances #4)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/07/2018)
12/07/2018	<u>7</u>	NOTICE to Reissue Summons by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Summons, # <u>2</u> Summons)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/07/2018)
12/10/2018	<u>8</u>	SUMMONS (3) REISSUED Electronically as to FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (zrdj). Modified event title on 12/13/2018 (znmw). (Entered: 12/10/2018)
12/20/2018	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Cristen Cori Handley on behalf of FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 12/20/2018)
12/20/2018	<u>10</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer re <u>6</u> Amended Complaint,,, by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 12/20/2018)
12/21/2018		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the defendant's <u>10</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time to Respond to Amended Complaint. Accordingly, the defendant shall, by January 16, 2019, file any response to the plaintiffs' <u>6</u> Amended Complaint. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on December 21, 2018. (lcbah3) (Entered: 12/21/2018)

12/21/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer to the Amended Complaint by Federal Bureau of Investigation due by 1/16/2019. (tg) (Entered: 12/21/2018)
01/08/2019	<u>11</u>	MOTION to Stay <i>Deadline to Respond to Amended Complaint</i> by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 01/08/2019)
01/08/2019	<u>12</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>11</u> MOTION to Stay <i>Deadline to Respond to Amended Complaint</i> filed by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/08/2019)
01/08/2019		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the defendant's <u>11</u> Motion for a Stay in Light of Lapse in Appropriations, notwithstanding the plaintiffs' <u>12</u> Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Stay. Accordingly, the January 16, 2019 deadline for the defendant to respond to the plaintiffs' <u>6</u> Amended Complaint is stayed until Congress appropriates funds for the defendant, and it is ordered that the defendant shall file any response to the plaintiffs' <u>6</u> Amended Complaint within five days of Congress appropriating funds for the defendant. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on January 8, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 01/08/2019)
01/28/2019	<u>13</u>	NOTICE of <i>Restoration of Appropriations</i> by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 01/28/2019)
01/30/2019	<u>14</u>	ANSWER to <u>6</u> Amended Complaint,,, by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.(Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 01/30/2019)
02/13/2019	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 02/13/2019)
02/15/2019		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by March 15, 2019, a joint status report advising the Court of (1) the status of the defendant's searches, including an estimate of when those searches will be completed; (2) when the defendant expects to make a final determination for each of the plaintiffs' FOIA requests; and (3) a proposed schedule for the processing and production of records. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on February 15, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 02/15/2019)
02/15/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/15/2019. (tg) (Entered: 02/19/2019)
03/01/2019	<u>16</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/01/2019)
03/04/2019	<u>17</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. Attorney Matthew Lynn Schafer terminated. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 03/04/2019)
03/15/2019	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 03/15/2019)
03/15/2019		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>18</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by August 21, 2019, a joint status report advising the Court whether any disputes remain between the parties, and if so, a proposed schedule to govern further proceedings. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on March 15, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 03/15/2019)
03/15/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 8/21/2019. (tg) (Entered: 03/15/2019)
03/25/2019	<u>19</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/25/2019)
08/06/2019	<u>20</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 08/06/2019)
08/21/2019	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 08/21/2019)
08/22/2019		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) ISSUING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>21</u> Joint Status Report, the following SCHEDULING ORDER: (1) by October 21, 2019, the defendant shall file any motion for summary judgment; (2) by November 20, 2019, the

		<p>plaintiffs shall file any consolidated cross-motion for summary judgment and opposition to the defendant's motion for summary judgment; (3) by December 20, 2019, the defendant shall file any consolidated reply in support of its motion for summary judgment and opposition to the plaintiff's cross-motion for summary judgment; and (4) by January 20, 2020, the plaintiffs shall file any reply in support of their cross-motion for summary judgment.</p> <p>A <i>Vaughn</i> Index submitted to the Court to justify any withholding should provide a sequentially numbered separate entry for each document withheld, in full or part, and the following information, at a minimum: (1) the document number; (2) the Bates stamp number range for the withheld document or portion of document; (3) the document description, including type of document (<i>e.g.</i>, email, email attachment, or document), date and title, if applicable; (4) the author(s); (5) the recipient(s); (6) whether document withheld in full or part; (7) the statutory authority for the withholding; and (8) the reason the exemption applies to the document. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on August 22, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 08/22/2019)</p>
08/22/2019		<p>Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's motion for summary judgment due by 10/21/2019. Plaintiffs' cross-motion for summary judgment and opposition to defendant's motion for summary judgment due by 11/20/2019. Defendant's reply in support of its motion for summary judgment and opposition to plaintiff's cross-motion due by 12/20/2019. Plaintiffs' reply in support of their cross-motion due by 1/20/2020. (hmc) (Entered: 08/22/2019)</p>